

# MEMO

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**TO:** Transportation Conformity Working Group

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**SUBJECT:** Timely Implementation of TCMs for the 2006 RTIP

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## Summary

The Transportation Control Measures (TCMs) in the SCAG region are updated every time SCAG's Regional Council updates the Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP). When a TCM cannot be implemented in a timely manner, SCAG can adopt a new control measure through the interagency consultation process. The Draft 2006 RTIP includes the updated TCM list. In the South Coast Air Basin, this new TCM list will be incorporated into the 2007 Air Quality Management Plan.

## Timely Implementation

The criteria for identifying TCM projects and the requirements for timely implementation of these projects are defined in the EPA's Transportation Conformity Rule, 40 CFR Parts 51 and 93. It is SCAG's responsibility to ensure that TCM strategies are funded in a manner consistent with the AQMP/SIP implementation schedule. The transportation conformity process is designed to ensure timely implementation of TCM strategies, thus reinforcing the link between AQMP/SIPs and the transportation planning process. If the implementation of a TCM is delayed, or if a TCM strategy is only partially implemented, areas are required to make up the shortfall by either substituting a new TCM strategy or by enhancing other control measures through the substitution process outlined in the federal transportation reauthorization bill SAFETEA-LU.

## Criteria and procedures for the Timely Implementation of TCMs (40 CFR 93.113)

(c) For TCMs, this criterion is satisfied if the following conditions are met:

- (1) An examination of the specific steps and funding sources(s) needed to fully implement each TCM indicates that TCMs which are eligible for funding under title 23 U.S.C. of the Federal Transit Laws are on or ahead of the schedule established in the applicable implementation plan, or, if such TCMs are behind the schedule established in the applicable implementation plan, the MPO and DOT have determined that past obstacles to implementation of the TCMs have been identified and have been or are being overcome, and that all State and local agencies with influence over approvals or funding for TCMs are giving maximum priority to approval or funding of TCMs over other projects within their control, including projects in locations outside the non-attainment or maintenance area.

## TCM Replacements Subsequent to the 2004 RTIP/RTIP

Since reporting on the 2004 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP), there have been three TCM replacements in the South Coast Air Basin (SCAB) which are awaiting federal approval.

### CenterLine

The CenterLine project is included in the 2004 RTP and RTIP with a completion date of 2010. The project entails constructing and operating an 8-mile-long light rail transit line from the Santa Ana Transit Center/Metrolink-Amtrack Station to John Wayne Airport. In October 2005, the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) Board of Directors approved the replacement of the CenterLine project with four new projects and SCAG amended the 2004 RTP and 2004 RTIP accordingly.

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## Yorba Linda Metrolink Station

The Yorba Linda Metrolink Station is included in the 2004 RTP and 2004 RTIP (project ID ORA981103) with a completion date of 2005. The Yorba Linda Metrolink Station shares the same set of substitution projects as the CenterLine.

The Centerline and Yorba Linda Station projects are located in the SCAB. Both are considered TCM projects under the Transit System category listed in Appendix IV-C of the 1997 Ozone SIP as well as the 2003 Ozone SIP. In compliance with the federal regulations and based on interagency consultation, SCAG and OCTA have replaced these TCM projects with four new transit projects (TCMs). The new TCM projects will be in place by 2010 (on the same schedule as the original projects).

## Riverside County Bus Expansion

The 2004 RTIP included the procurement of three expansion buses (project ID RIV010511) for the City of Corona fixed-route bus way, or Green Line. This project is a TCM with a completion date in the 2004 RTIP of December 31, 2006. However, due to lower than expected ridership, the City of Corona did not see the need to expand service and did not expect demand to materialize for another three to five years. In compliance with the federal regulations and based on interagency consultation, SCAG and Riverside County Transportation Commission (RCTC) have replaced this TCM project with a new project. The proposed TCM replacement consists of leasing a 60 space park-and-ride lot in the City of Corona.

Based on SCAG's analysis of the Draft 2006 RTIP Timely Implementation Report, one additional project has been identified as requiring a substitution.

## Los Angeles County Bike Trail

The 2004 RTIP includes the Thompson Creek Bicycle Trail (project ID LA002633). This is a two mile segment with a completion date of 2005. At the June 20, 2005 Pomona City Council, council members decided that La County Department of Public Works should not move forward with the project due to community opposition. The Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) is proposing the following project as a replacement:

LAC MTA LA450022 (Lump Sum) Diamond Bar, Brea Canyon Road project includes construction of designated bike paths, bicycle racks and landscaping. The project has funding in FY 07/08.

Section 6011(d) of SAFETEA-LU allows for the substitution of TCMs if certain conditions are met. These include:

- "(i) if the substitute measures achieve equivalent or greater emissions reductions than the control measure to be replaced, as demonstrated with an emissions impact analysis that is consistent with the current methodology used for evaluating the replaced control measure in the implementation plan;
- "(ii) if the substitute control measures are implemented-
  - "(I) in accordance with a schedule that is consistent with the schedule provided for control measures in the implementation plan; or
  - "(II) if the implementation plan date for implementation of the control measure to be replaced has passed, as soon as practicable after the implementation plan date but not later than the date on which emission reductions are necessary to achieve the purpose of the implementation plan;
- "(iii) if the substitute and additional control measures are accompanied with evidence of adequate personnel and funding and authority under State or local law to implement, monitor, and enforce the control measures;

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"(iv) if the substitute and additional control measures were developed through a collaborative process that included--

- "(I) participation by representatives of all affected jurisdictions (including local air pollution control agencies, the State air pollution control agency, and State and local transportation agencies);
- "(II) consultation with the Administrator; and
- "(III) reasonable public notice and opportunity for comment; and

"(v) if the metropolitan planning organization, State air pollution control agency, and the Administrator concur with the equivalency of the substitute or additional control measures.

The substitution of the proposed bike trail as part of the 2006 Regional Transportation Improvement Program process will allow MTA to meet the requirements set forth in Section 6011(d) of SAFETEA-LU, specifically public review, interagency consultation and emissions analysis.